

Serial No. 09/475,961

9D-EC-19335

determining a delivery date to the buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the respective buyer's address.

42. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 41, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from each of said supplier ship schedules based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

43. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 42, wherein the step of determining the ability of the respective delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating the number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

44. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 43, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from a work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for each order.

45. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 43, wherein the step of determining when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order further comprising the step of determining the first available date that the order can be completely shipped to the respective buyer based on a respective capacity matrix and based on the number of available delivery slots.

46. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 44, further comprising the step of updating the electronic manifest indicating the order ship date and the additional capacity utilized.

47. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 43, further comprising the step of getting each zip code to which a portion of the order is to be delivered and the brand of the respective good in the order.

48. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 47, further comprising the step of getting a respective supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and brand of good ordered.

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49. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 48, further comprising the step of selecting a delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the respective zip code of the order.

50. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 49, further comprising the step of determining the first potential ship date to the respective buyer's address based on the capacity of the delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the delivery agent.

51. A method of managing the delivery of a multi-brand order from at least two suppliers to a respective delivery agent, and from the delivery agent to a buyer, given order information, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a first potential arrival date of the order to the delivery agent's location, based on the order request date and the buyer's address;

determining the ability of the delivery agent to ship the order based the first potential arrive date request; and

determining a delivery date to the buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the buyer's address.

52. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 51, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a respective supplier's ship schedule based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

53. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 52, wherein the step of determining the ability of the delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating the number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

54. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 53, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from a work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for each order.

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55. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 53, wherein the step of determining when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order further comprising the step of determining the first available date that the order can be completely shipped to the buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on the number of available delivery slots.

56. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 54, further comprising the step of updating the electronic manifest indicating the order ship date and the additional capacity utilized.

57. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 53, further comprising the step of getting the zip code to which the order is to be delivered and the brand of the respective good in the order.

58. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 57, further comprising the step of getting a respective supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and brand of good ordered.

59. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 58, further comprising the step of selecting a delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the order.

60. The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 59, further comprising the step of determining the first potential ship date to the buyer's address based on the capacity of the delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the delivery agent.

In the following amendment new claims 41 through 60 have been added.

New claims 41 through 60 are fully supported within the specification and do not comprise new matter.

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